ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR PRACTICE SUCCESS: KEEPING YOUR PRACTICE ON THE SHARP EDGE OF THE EDUCATIONAL ROUNDABOUT

PROFESSOR ANDREW DART
VETERINARY STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM COORDINATOR

This year’s conference will again be held at the Veterinary Science Conference Centre in Sydney. As a Partner in Veterinary Education, you are warmly invited to attend to hear from leading professionals and meet and network with colleagues and Faculty staff.

We would like to thank our sponsors Provet, Hill’s Pet Nutrition, IDEXX and Royal Canin for making free continuing education available to our educational partners.

In response to requests from many practitioners, we have created a program aimed at addressing some of the new challenges in veterinary practice. Hopefully, in reading the outline of this program, you will see presentations that will address challenges in your practice, not only in terms of hosting undergraduate students but in ensuring the members of your team are working in an environment that optimises the outcomes of the team. We have incorporated some real and common challenges that practitioners have shared with us in feedback. There should be something for everyone in the practice at this year’s conference.

We are fortunate to have Professor John August from Texas A & M University, who is this year’s Evelyn Williams Visiting Scholar, and Emeritus Professor Paul Canfield as key note speakers. Both are eminent clinical scholars in their own fields and both boast a keen and proven track record in teaching and mentoring junior clinical veterinarians over many years.

Once again, there is no cost to our Partners in Veterinary Education to attend this conference or dinner. Last year’s dinner was a notable event and this year’s dinner and after dinner speaker should be a gold medal winner with a few surprises thrown in along the way. We are particularly grateful to our major sponsor Provet who have been supporting us from the very first conference in 2003 and to our other generous sponsors Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Royal Canin and IDEXX.

This year the conference has boldly gone where no other veterinary conference has gone and the Faculty and Sponsors challenge you to move outside your comfort zone to enter an ethereal world where satisfaction and pride come from inspiring others to achieve their best.

REGISTER BY 30 MAY
Register online before 30 May:
sydney.edu.au/vetscience/partners/conference

For more information, contact:
Melanie Robson
T +61 2 9351 3550
THURSDAY, JULY 17TH

8:15am Conference registration opens

8:45am Conference welcome

9:00am Helping junior colleagues navigate difficult transitions
   Professor John August, Evelyn Williams Visiting Scholar, Texas A&M University
   The relatively passive environment of the large classroom is very different from that of the teaching hospital and practices in which students are expected to express opinions and communicate effectively with clients and clinicians. How do we help students and young professionals make this and other important transitions in their early career development?

10:30am Clinical reasoning: Is pattern recognition evil?
   Emeritus Professor Paul Canfield, University of Sydney
   How do you help a junior colleague decide on when to use pattern recognition (System 1 thinking) or the analytical problem orientated approach (System 2 thinking) to diagnose a case? Should they be using both in tandem? Paul might surprise you about how he thinks about the diagnostic process. However, those of you that know him are probably past being surprised by his pecadilloes and eccentricities!

11:30am Morning tea

12:00pm An introduction to mentoring future professionals
   Professor John August, Evelyn Williams Visiting Scholar, Texas A&M University
   Students and early-career professionals benefit greatly from effective mentoring from strong role models. But how do we assume this essential responsibility? A mentoring model will be introduce that can be implemented in practices for the professional development of all members of the clinical team.

1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm Mentoring workshop with case studies
   Professor John August, Evelyn Williams Visiting Scholar, Texas A&M University
   Participants, working in small groups, will apply the mentoring model to case studies that illustrate common problems encountered by students and early-career veterinarians. Each group will then present their recommendations to promote discussion and sharing of opinions.

4:00pm Afternoon tea

4:30pm ‘Cognitive Pills for Cognitive Ills’ in Clinical Reasoning
   Emeritus Professor Paul Canfield, Sydney University
   How many of you know that you use bias everyday in making diagnoses? How many of you resort to mental short cuts (heuristics) in diagnosis to get through the case load so that you can finally go home? If you do, than you know that sometimes they can lead to mistakes; so, how can you help junior colleagues avoid making mistakes in diagnosis? Paul suggests that he is qualified to talk about this by virtue of making all the mistakes possible through using bias and heuristics. See if you can match him!

5:30pm Closing remarks

6:30pm Conference Dinner and awards

After Dinner Speaker: Emeritus Professor Paul Canfield

FRIDAY, JULY 18TH

8:00am Conference registration opens

8:30am Facilitating effective small-group discussions
   Professor John August, Evelyn Williams Visiting Scholar, Texas A&M University
   Small-group discussions provide important opportunities for students and veterinarians to work collaboratively, express opinions, debate ideas, and reflect critically on their understanding of the subject being discussed. To meet these goals, facilitators must have exceptional skills in planning, questioning, active listening, reinforcing, and summarising.

9:30am How does the profession adapt to the diversity of backgrounds in the emerging graduates now and into the future?
   Professor Michelle Lincoln, Deputy Dean of Health Sciences, University of Sydney
   Veterinary practice has effectively adapted to the change from a male to a female dominated profession over the past few decades. We are now experiencing an increase in graduates from international backgrounds in the profession. Many of these students will end up staying in Australia and entering the local workforce. How do we optimise the changing environment?

10:30am Morning tea

11:00am Managing student diversity in clinical learning environments – some insights and some strategies.
   Eva King, PhD candidate, University of Queensland
   As outlined in earlier sessions, today’s students come from different cultural backgrounds, have different approaches and motivations for becoming veterinarians, thus making traditional feedback methods highly suspect. In addition to being unhelpful for students who perform poorly, traditional feedback methods may not always prepare all students to be lifelong learners.

1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm Tips on really effective feedback for student interns struggling with their clinical performance
   Doctor Grahame Felletti, Educational consultant to the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Newcastle and Dr. John Bigley, Registrar Veterinary Practitioners Board of NSW
   As outlined in earlier sessions, today’s students come from different cultural backgrounds, have different learning approaches and motivations for becoming veterinarians, thus making traditional feedback methods highly suspect. In addition to being unhelpful for students who perform poorly, traditional feedback methods may not always prepare all students to be lifelong learners.

3:00pm Afternoon tea

4:00pm Closing remarks
SPEAKER INFORMATION

PROFESSOR JOHN AUGUST
Texas A&M University

John August received his pre-veterinary education at Eastbourne College in Sussex, England. In 1973, he graduated with honors from the Royal Veterinary College at the University of London, and became a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

His professional interests include feline internal medicine, distance education, mentoring and faculty development, the effective use of educational technology in the classroom to promote learning, and lecturing internationally in Latin America to foster the regional development of feline medicine as a clinical specialty.

PROFESSOR MICHELLE LINCOLN
The University of Sydney

Professor Michelle Lincoln is the Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney. In her previous role of Associate Dean Learning and Teaching she led innovative curriculum development in undergraduate allied health courses in the faculty.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS PAUL CANFIELD
DVSc PhD GradCertEdStud, FANZCVSc FRCPath MRCVS

Paul is currently Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney. From 1980 and until his retirement in 2010, he was Professor in Veterinary Pathology and Clinical Pathology and Director of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostic Services in the University of Sydney’s Faculty of Veterinary Science. He has over 200 publications in the disciplines of veterinary clinical and anatomical pathology and has successfully supervised over 17 postgraduate students.

DOCTOR JOHN BAGULEY
Veterinary Practitioners Board of NSW

John is the Registrar of the Veterinary Practitioners Board of NSW. John joined the University of Sydney Faculty of Veterinary Science in 2003. He coordinated their Professional Practice Program and taught in a variety of areas including practice management, ethics and law. John’s research interests in veterinary practice management and education continue despite his move to the Veterinary Practitioners Board in 2012.

DOCTOR GRAHAME FELLETTI
University of Newcastle

Dr Feletti is a retired consultant in higher and professional education. He was a university student from 1964-78, and then an academic for 40 years until 2011. Grahame has held numerous academic positions in arts, science and health professions disciplines in Australia, USA and New Zealand. Grahame's professional interest is in rejuvenating teaching and learning for the professions - so that teachers and students gain from their interaction as colleagues.

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Topics and speakers are subject to change. Information accurate as of March 2014.